

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-02 ITFE-00 DHA-02 ORM-01 L-03 VOE-00

SCA-01 INSE-00 CG-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 EB-07 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SY-05 /038 W

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O R 180801Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 996

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

UNCLAS KUALA LUMPUR 4915

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CPRS, SREF, VN, MY

SUBJ: ALLEGED SOUTH VIETNAMESE SHIP "TRUONG VINH"

(AKA "JUNGSANG TRADER")

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 3685, 4832

1. SHIPOWNER'S REPRESENTATIVE ROBERT SANCHELLI INFORMED EMB AUG 16 THAT HE ATTEMPTED CONTACT CREW ON THAT DATE AND WAS INFORMED BY PENANG PORT AUTHORITIES THAT SHIP DEPARTED PENANG ON AUG 11 FOR UNKNOWN DESTINATION. SANGHELLI REPORTED HE RECEIVED NOTE FROM SHIP CAPTAIN PRIOR TO DEPARTTURE OF SHIP STATING THAT "PRG AGENTS" HAD COMMUNICATED WITH 16 CREWMEMBERS WHO WISH RETURN TO VIETNAME. REPORTEDLY PRG AGENTS REACHED SHIP VIA SMALL FISHING BOATS. IT NOT KNOWN WHETHER ANY BOARDED OR ACCOMPANIED SHIP UPON DEPARTURE.

2. SANCHELLI REPORTED SHIP'S RADIO OPERATOR IS SELF-PROCLAIMED LEADER OF CREWMEMEBERS WISHING TO RETURN TO VIETNAM, AND THAT NO OTHER CREWMEMBERS ARE TRAINED IN OPERATION SHIP'S RADIO EQUIPMENT. SHIP REPORTED TO HAVE ADEQUATE WATER AND FUEL FOR LONG VOYAGE AND PENANG PORT AUTHORITIES DELIVERED TEN DAY FOOD SUPPLY DAY BEFORE SHIP DEPARTED.

3. SANCHELLI HAS REQUESTED EMB ASSISTANCE TO LOCATE VESSEL, FEARING POSSIBLE MUTINY BY THE SIXTEEN CREWMEMBERS WHO WISH
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RETURN VIETNAM. SANCHELLI CONCERNED THAT CAPTAIN AND OFFICERS

BEING FORCED ACCOMPANY SHIP TO VIETNAM AS HE STATES CREWMEMBERS (OTHER THAN CAPTAIN AND OFFICERS) DO NOT HAVE EXPERIENCE IN NAVIGATION. CAPTAIN AND 4 OFFICERS LISTED REFTEL 4832 HAVE POSSIBLE CLAIM REFUGEE STATUS IF FAMILY MEMBERS IN REFUGEE CAMPS IN U.S. AS THEY CLAIM.

4. VIEW PREVIOUS CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST THIS CASE AND SANCHELLI'S CLAIM THAT VIETNAMESE MAJORITY SHAREHOLDER OF SHIP IS NOW IN U.S., EMB REPORTS ABOVE FOR ANY ACTION CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE BY DEPT. OTHER SHAREHOLDERS ARE JAPANESE AND PANAMANIAN. ACCORDING SANCHELLI, EMB SINGAPORE CHECKED WITH MARINE AUTHORITIES THERE WHO REPORTED THAT SHIP HAS NOT COME TO THEIR ATTENTION.

5. PENANG CID REPRESENTATIVE IGNATIUS PERRERRA LATER INFORMED SANCHELLI THAT SHIP WAS SIGHTED IN VICINITY JOHORE BARU APPROX THREE DAYS AGO AND THAT FIVE CREWMEN FROM SHIP TAKEN INTO CUSTODY BY MALAYSIAN IMMIGRATION. NO INFO RE THEIR IDENTITY OR CONFIRMATION THIS REPORT.

6. REQUEST DEPT ADVISE IF ANY FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED BY EMB.
DILLON

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NNN

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